



COUNCIL COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY

Felicia Marcus

The task set out for the Delta Stewardship Council by the Legislature is definitely daunting. To develop a long-term management plan that balances the coequal goals of reliable water for California and a restored and enhanced ecosystem, while recognizing the uniqueness of the Delta as an evolving place, is not an easy task, especially given the short timeframe set by statute.



Felicia Marcus

Delta Stewardship Council member

Fortunately, we are well on our way down exactly that path – and we’re making sure the public can see every step we take.

One of the most interesting – and relatively unacknowledged – aspects of how the Delta Stewardship Council is going about its work is that we are doing it with a genuine emphasis on transparency. That word “transparency” is quickly becoming an overused buzz word in government circles, but a sincere effort to provide access and engage with the public is more than some mandatory step – it’s critical to success.

While there are legal requirements that force governmental bodies to put some minimal amount of their work online or otherwise make it accessible to the public, the Delta Stewardship Council, under Phil Isenberg’s leadership, is dedicated to creating a truly transparent process that gives unprecedented access to everyone.

What the Council has created is a large-scale community conversation about the future of the Delta, an issue of tremendous importance to far more people than the small group of water experts that normally deal with

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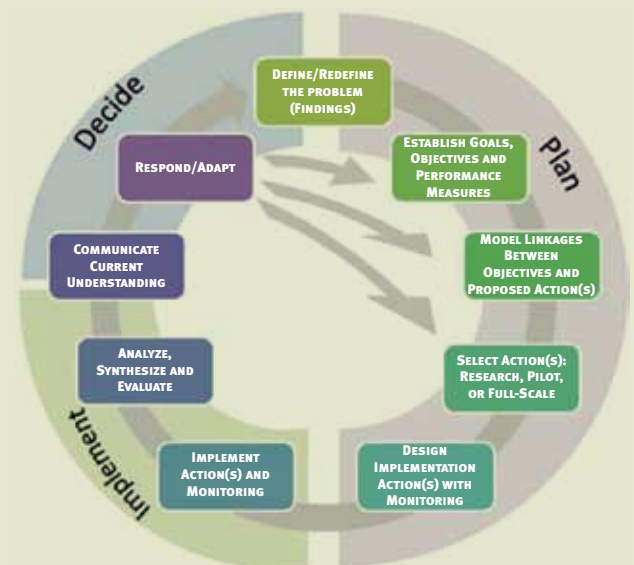
THIRD STAFF DRAFT OF DELTA PLAN RELEASED APRIL 22

Council Focuses on Second Staff Draft During March Meeting

The third staff draft of the Delta Plan will be evaluated at the April 28-29 meeting of the Delta Stewardship Council. Meanwhile, at the March meeting the second staff draft was thoroughly discussed and debated.

During nearly eight hours of dialogue, the Council evaluated each of the policies and recommendations, examining areas such as governance, adaptive management, ecosystem restoration, water quality, flood protection and the Delta as an evolving place. The Council

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The Delta Stewardship Council will use the adaptive management framework (above) as a guideline for evaluating the use of adaptive management in Delta-related plans, programs, and projects. The shading represents the three broad phases of adaptive management (Plan, Implement and Decide) and the boxes represent the steps within an adaptive management framework. The circular arrow represents the general sequence of steps. The additional arrows indicate possible next steps from the respond/adapt step.

SCIENCE BOARD STRIVES TO FIND RIGHT BALANCE

But continues to deliver solid results

“THIS REPORT (FROM THE DELTA ISB) WAS VERY, VERY HELPFUL. BY FAR, THE INDEPENDENT SCIENCE BOARD’S REVIEW WAS THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE.”

Council member Randy Fiorini

Despite the difficulty of performing what it believes are dual roles, the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB) recently released a review of the first draft of the Delta Plan.

Dr. Richard Norgaard, who chairs the Delta ISB, told the Council during its March meeting that the Board will continue to work through the process of supporting the Council in the development of the Delta Plan.

Norgaard said the Board is required by law to be an independent reviewer of the quality of the science used in the staff draft plans. On the other hand the Council is asking the scientists to take an active part in developing the document.

“The Delta Independent Science Board continues to be frustrated by the statutory mandates that we remain an independent review board and the needs of getting better science into the draft itself,” said Norgaard, who is also a professor of energy and resources at UC Berkeley.

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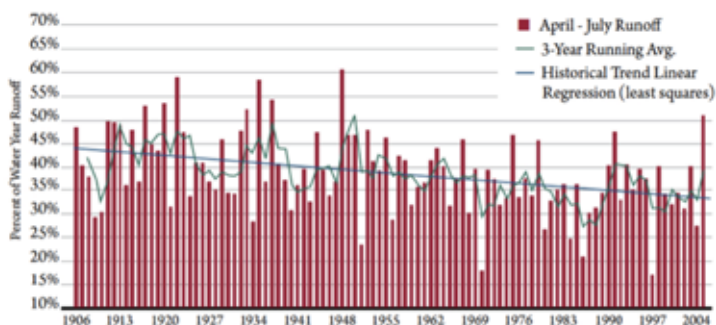


Figure 6.3. Sacramento River Spring Runoff, an indication of snowmelt, has been decreasing for years. Measured in percent of Water Year Runoff. (Source: California Department of Water Resources 2005.)

Among its many helpful suggestions to the Council, the Delta ISB recommends that Council staff use graphics – like this image here – in future drafts of the Delta Plan to make it easier to read.

COUNCIL, COMMISSION MAY COMBINE FORCES TO ADDRESS WATER STORAGE

Shared Goals Bind Agencies

“THERE ARE MANY IMPORTANT PARALLELS BETWEEN THE WORK THAT WE WILL DO AT THE COMMISSION LEVEL AND THAT OF THE COUNCIL.”

California Water Commission Vice Chair Paul Kelley

During the Delta Stewardship Council’s March meeting, Paul Kelley, Vice Chair of the California Water Commission, told the Council that new surface storage should be an integral part in any plan to fix the Delta. He said the storage would keep vast amounts of rain water and snow melt from running to the ocean, making it available for use during California’s frequent drought periods.

Kelly pointed out to the Council that the Commission will determine which storage projects will move forward if the \$11 billion water bond is passed in 2012.

“There is \$3 billion for storage projects as part of the bond measure,” Kelley said. “The Commission has been directed to determine which projects will receive that funding.”

The first of the Council’s state-mandated coequal goals is to provide California with a more reliable water supply. To assist in answering this equation, one item being debated for inclusion in the Delta Plan is the possible recommendation of developing more surface storage south of the Delta.

*See **Water Commission**, Page 6*



Courtesy of the Department of Water Resources

LOS VAQUEROS RESERVOIR CAN STORE UP TO 100,000 ACRE-FEET OF WATER. CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSION VICE CHAIR PAUL KELLEY TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT NEW SURFACE STORAGE SHOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART IN ANY PLAN TO FIX THE DELTA.

COUNCIL MAY TAP WATER BOARD'S AUTHORITATIVE EXPERTISE

State Water Board Plays Critical Role in Delta Plan Implementation

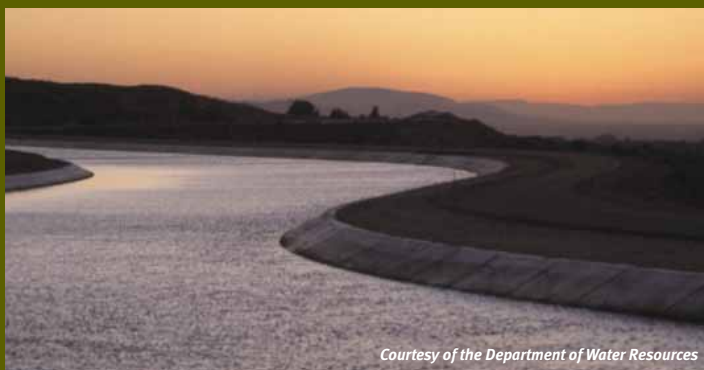
The State Water Board will likely play a large role in the development of the Delta Plan. At the Council's March meeting Delta Watermaster Craig Wilson said his employer has the legal teeth to help implement the Council's state-mandated coequal goals.

"It's clear that the State Water Board is the principal agency exercising the adjudicatory and regulatory functions of the state (with regards to water)," said Wilson. "The SWB's authority will be used to implement the coequal goals, including the sub goals and strategies."

Many of the regulatory details being recommended in the Delta Plan fall under the authority of the State Water Board, including regulating stressors (flows, upstream contaminants, invasive species and legacy pollutants), water use efficiency and the monitoring of proper water use and water quality.

As Watermaster, Wilson is given authority to monitor and report, as well as take enforcement actions within the Delta. His position also affords him a great deal of independence from the Board in issues such as implementing and enforcing existing water-rights laws.

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Courtesy of the Department of Water Resources

DELTA WATERMASTER CRAIG WILSON SAID THE STATE WATER BOARD HAS THE LEGAL TEETH TO HELP IMPLEMENT THE COUNCIL'S STATE-MANDATED COEQUAL GOALS. MANY OF THE REGULATORY DETAILS BEING RECOMMENDED IN THE DELTA PLAN FALL UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE WATER BOARD, INCLUDING REGULATING STRESSORS, WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND THE MONITORING OF PROPER WATER USE AND WATER QUALITY.

EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSES SALMONID LIFE CYCLE

Models could help recovery of salmon and steelhead

Despite its media attention, Delta smelt are not the only harbinger of the ecosystem crisis in the Delta. According to Delta Science Program Lead Scientist Dr. Cliff Dahm, a better bellwether on the Delta's health is salmon and steelhead, which is why he promoted a workshop on the life cycle of salmonids.

"The workshop focused on whether available life cycle models for salmon can be used to better guide water operations for the Delta and the Delta watershed with regards to both individual and multiple species of salmon within the ecosystem," said Dahm.

At the request of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Delta Science Program hosted a one-day public workshop on April 13, 2011 to discuss salmonid integrated life cycle models. Those within the Delta Science Program (DSP) say the models are critical tools for understanding the health of salmon and steelhead, as well as managing their recovery within the Delta.

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"The workshop focused on whether available life cycle models for salmon can be used to better guide water operations for the Delta."

*Cliff Dahm,
Delta Science Program
Lead Scientist*



Courtesy of the Department of Water Resources

A WORKSHOP ON SALMONIDS FOCUSED ON WHETHER AVAILABLE LIFE CYCLE MODELS FOR SALMON CAN BE USED TO BETTER GUIDE WATER OPERATIONS FOR THE DELTA.

GIANT QUAKES MAY HAVE OCCURRED IN CALIFORNIA

Delta ISB Member Sees Japanese Temblor as Reminder of North American Risk

California has a history of quakes as large as the giant 9.0 off the coast of northern Honshu, Japan. That's according to Delta Independent Science Board Member Brian Atwater, whose expertise includes studying ancient earthquakes and tsunamis.

"Earthquake forecasting is more practical than earthquake prediction," said Dr. Atwater.

Earthquake forecasts in California are based, in part, on the state's history of quakes. Dr. Atwater points to earthquake history inferred from North American geology and Japanese documents. Together this evidence tells of a giant earthquake in A.D. 1700 along the North America's largest active fault outside Alaska – a fault that extends 700 miles from Vancouver Island in British Columbia to Cape Mendocino in Humboldt County. How this quake and its predecessors were discovered can be seen in "The Orphan Tsunami of 1700" [HERE](#).

The source area of the 1700 quake is more than 200 miles from the legal Delta. But that's close enough for seismologists to use it as they try to forecast future shaking of the Delta's levees. They also consider quake sources in the Bay Area and beneath the Delta itself.

To read an in-depth interview with Dr. Atwater on this subject, check out the [April issue of Science News](#), the Delta Science Program's bimonthly online newsletter.

Marcus, Continued from Page 1

water issues. That is a critically important aspect of good government that is more often honored in the breach, or with resentment. Here, it is foundational.

Good government is really about engaging members of the public and allowing them to both see and help create the basis for sound decision making. It's about giving them the opportunity and the access to weigh in and influence government in ways that are both technical and practical. Government is not just about "the experts," who are frequently self-appointed. Of course, we need and respect experts, whether engineers, biologists,

hydrologists, lawyers, water professionals or professional policy makers and the like, but you want the common sense that comes from people with real-world experience – which is what you get in a sincerely implemented public engagement program.

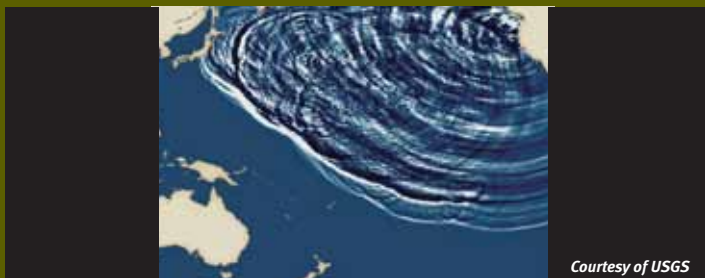
Every document – every briefing paper, draft report, memorandum, comment to the Council, comment about a comment, news release, archived video

What the Council has created is a large-scale community conversation about the future of the Delta.

of meetings and workshops – is posted on the Delta Stewardship Council website. Hundreds, if not more, watch us live on our webcasts. The DSC is providing a vehicle for the average citizen or the non-expert to get access to this incredibly interesting and important area of public policy that you really can't get anywhere else.

Although many people have attended our Council meetings, workshops and scoping hearings, my hope is that the audience will only grow, and that they will use some of the documents we have posted for a better dialogue about water wherever they can engage, but will also influence our plan for the better. They already have even at this preliminary staff drafting stage. I have high hopes that this engagement will result in a far better plan at the end of this process, complete with a discussion of alternatives through the EIR process this summer.

By then, I hope we will have not only completed the Delta Plan, and created a useful online library of information, but that we have also engaged a new and expanded group of concerned Californians in meeting California's water challenges.



A SIMULATED TSUNAMI REACHES JAPAN TEN HOURS AFTER ITS START ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST OF NORTH AMERICA. DELTA ISB MEMBER DR. BRIAN ATWATER SAYS SUCH WEST COAST PHENOMENA ARE FEASIBLE.

Delta Plan, Continued from Page 1

members then offered suggestions and revisions to inform the DSC staff on how to construct future iterations of the draft plan.

Many of the suggestions were contextual or definitional in nature. For instance, Council Chair Phil Isenberg suggested that staff members include an opening statement for each recommendation to make the document easier to understand. Council member Hank Nordhoff suggested that the plan note the difference between a levee and a dike to help define flood protection areas.

Other revisions were larger in scale. Council Vice Chair Randy Fiorini noted the need for clarity when discussing possible future water storage facilities. He said that while in his opinion new and better water storage facilities are part of the solution, they are not a silver bullet that will solve all of the Delta's problems.

"It'd be very easy to parachute into this conversation and say, 'They think storage will solve all the problems,'" Fiorini said. "This is a wicked set of problems that will require a comprehensive set of solutions and storage is one of them. Anyone who over-simplifies the solutions to what we are facing is not very well informed."

Council member Felicia Marcus applauded the statewide approach of the second draft but reminded staff members of the importance of outlining regional challenges.

"This is a very regional, patchwork puzzle. It's not a one-size fits all for the state of California," Marcus said. "If we as a Council can highlight regional challenges and opportunities, that is going to be a big step forward."

DSC staff members will incorporate this feedback from the Council as they construct the third staff draft of the Delta Plan, along with input from the Delta Independent Science Board as well comments from the public.

An ambitious set of materials are planned to be added to the third staff draft due to be release on April 22. Those materials include:

- Further development of the Finance chapter with a more fully developed finance plan
- Targets and performance measures for proposed policies
- Revised "Findings" based on Delta ISB comments

- An edited version of the narrative from the first staff draft
- A fusion of findings from draft one and regulatory policies and recommendations from draft two
- Maps, charts and graphics to more clearly explain the findings and regulatory policies

To view the Second Staff Draft, click [HERE](#).

Salmon, Continued from Page 3

"Life cycle models take into consideration all of the various factors that affect the survival of salmon and steelhead - from eggs laid in the gravel of streams, to the migration of juveniles through the Delta, to growth to adulthood in the ocean, and finally migration back to their natal streams to spawn the next generation," said DSP Program Manager Sam Harader.

Harader; who oversaw the workshop, says the ever-changing conditions of the salmon's life-cycle are complex, making them challenging to interpret.

"The importance of life cycle models is that they quantify all of these life stages in one model unlike previous models that only look at survival over a single or a few life stages."

Experts who are familiar with modeling and the science of salmonids were among the panelists. They included:

- James J. Anderson, University of Washington, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences
- Michelle McClure, Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NOAA)
- Kenneth A. Rose, Louisiana State University, Dept. of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences
- Dr. Gregory T. Ruggerone, Vice President, Natural Resources Consultants (NRC)

Details about the workshop can be found [HERE](#).

please visit our website

deltacouncil.ca.gov

Science Board, Continued from Page 2

“This report (from the Delta ISB) was very, very helpful,” said Council member Randy Fiorini. “By far, the Independent Science Board’s review was the most constructive. Now, the process has been very frustrating, I think, for everybody. It grieves me when people throw criticisms out that this is junk and this is no good. Everybody’s working as hard as they can.”

Fiorini was also quick to add that in future drafts, he looks forward to the Board’s input and he is confident it will identify the science that leads to the best possible outcomes.

During the meeting, Norgaard went on to explain that while policy goals are clearly stated in the first staff draft plan, science seems to be an after thought. The plan, he believes, does not adequately describe how science will be used to meet the goals.

In a letter to the Council, the Board wrote, “In the judgment of the Delta ISB, the Delta Plan will fail, as have prior efforts to resolve the coequal goals of the Plan, if it is based on an inappropriate scientific characterization of the state...of the Delta.”

Many members of the Council expressed their gratitude for the Board’s work and appreciated the independent nature of the procedure, which they believe will pave the way for crafting better plans in the weeks and months ahead.

Council member Felicia Marcus rounded out the discussion by offering a different diagnosis of the dialogue.

“I don’t see it so much as a conflict, but discomfort,” Marcus said.

Norgaard agreed saying that he doesn’t feel his objectivity is being compromised, that the Board will continue to work with the Council to reconcile its role, and overcome the inherent challenges of how academics can offer the best available data that may ultimately be used in developing legal guidelines.

“Obviously, we have a situation where the science and the policy have to meet somehow,” Norgaard said. “This is not a strictly academic role. It is very much in a policy setting. So we’re constantly trying to balance.”

Along with offering an assessment of the science used in the first staff draft, the Board also offered suggestions on the preparation of the Delta Plan and recommendations for its improvement.

In addition to ensuring the that science components are explicit and the best available, the Board recommended that the Council reduce the findings to problem statements, to cite comprehensive studies to describe the Delta, to use many different illustrations to show the situation, and to define terms and use them consistently and prepare the plan as an education document.

For more information about the Board’s comments regarding the Delta Plan, please click [HERE](#).

Water Commission, Continued from Page 2

“There are many important parallels between the work that we will do at the Commission level and that of the Council,” Kelley said. “And we, like you, will be looking to integrate sound water-related investments to support long-term sustainability for water supply and ecosystems.”

Council Executive Officer Joe Grindstaff felt the complementary views between the two state agencies will assist state lawmakers when the issues are discussed in the legislature.

“It would be tremendous if the Commission could say these are the priorities of the state and we are going to tell our members of legislature, if we do these things, they will bring the most benefit for the state,” Grindstaff said.

Along with approving funding for surface and groundwater storage projects, the Commission’s charge includes approving all Department of Water Resources regulations, overseeing the State Water Project, securing federal appropriations for state and federal water projects and advising the state legislature on statewide water operations and planning issues.

To view the California Water Commission Fact Sheet, click [HERE](#).

To view the California Water Commission Workplan for 2011, click [HERE](#).

Watermaster, Continued from Page 3

“You’re uniquely positioned to provide recommendations to this Council because of your position and experience,” Council Chair Phil Isenberg said. “Consider this a general invitation to provide specific wording to incorporate into the Delta Plan.”

Wilson obliged by encouraging the Council to incorporate the Board’s Bay Delta Water Control Plan and the 2008 Delta Strategic Work plan into the final version of the Delta Plan. The Council also recognized the need to weave other completed plans into the mix, but only to the extent that they promote the coequal goals.

Council member Felicia Marcus suggested the Council engage with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Water Board to anticipate what should be included in the Delta Plan beyond flow standards.

“We have the beauty of playing the role of the ‘Great Integrators,’” Marcus said.

To view the Watermaster’s PowerPoint presentation, click [HERE](#).

To view the State Water Board fact sheet, click [HERE](#).

To view the Watermaster’s report on the State Water Resources Control Board’s Role in Implementing the Delta Plan, click [HERE](#).

SNAPSHOTS OF THE DELTA

